

CLAIMS

1. An exhaust gas purifying catalyst carrying an alkali metal and a noble metal on a crystalline zirconium composite oxide, wherein the zirconium composite oxide is one in which zirconium is partly substituted with at least one kind of element selected from the group consisting of an alkaline earth metal, a rare earth metal and an element of the group IIIB, and the elongation of the crystal lattice due to substitution with the element assumes a nearly theoretical value.
2. An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein at least one kind of element selected from the group consisting of the alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, rare earth metal and element of the group IIIB is present in an amount of 5 to 50 mole % based on the whole mole number of the whole metal elements in the zirconium composite oxide.
3. An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein zirconium is partly substituted with lanthanum.
4. An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal carried by the zirconium composite oxide is cesium.
5. An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the noble metal carried by the zirconium composite oxide is platinum.